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MATWATCH

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Steve's Sidelights By Steve Beverly

**BARRY WINDHAM FIRED BY NWA; MANAGEMENT SAYS
"WE'RE STILL TALKING"**

ATLANTA - Is it the boot instead of the belt?

Former U.S. champion and NWA world title contender Barry Windham was fired last Monday from the promotion in a reported dispute over his future position. NWA senior vice president Jim Herd told MATWATCH Windham has been "released," but added, "We're still talking in an effort to resolve the problems in this matter."

MATWATCH has not been able to reach Windham for a comment but has discussed the dispute with a variety of sources and has learned the following:

***Windham was upset that he is not getting an immediate push for the NWA world title, something he told NWA officials he was promised by former bookers, presumably George Scott and/or Dusty Rhodes.

***Two sources have told us Windham "made a play for the book," threatening to leave the NWA if he wasn't given the option to supplant the promotion's new booking committee.

***Windham reportedly could not be traced by phone by the promotion after making some TV tapings shortly after CHI-TOWN RUMBLE and had not called into the NWA office until early last week.

***Reports differ as to whether Windham has actually had surgery on his hand, which was supposed to be the reason for his recent layoff. Herd told us, "I haven't seen Barry or his hand to know." Other sources indicate Windham has not had the surgery.

***Some NWA insiders have been disturbed at an alleged "attitude problem" of Windham's, saying the young contender has displayed a "prima donna" persona in recent months. One source told us, "We have some young, hungry, exciting new talent in here and we're not going to allow any one person to be a problem."

Windham, whose salary has been estimated at \$300,000, was relayed word through his brother, Kendall, brother-in-law Mike Rotunda, and father, Blackjack Mulligan, that he needed to contact the office after the March 28 firing of booker George Scott. Contact was reportedly not made until last Monday and members



of the booking committee were taken aback by Windham's demeanor. The firing decision was made by a consensus of the committee. Herd relayed the news.

MATWATCH has been told the NWA has been combatting personnel problems with at least three or four stars and the Windham decision is a prime example of how the Turner organization is not going to tolerate an individual, no matter his star status, placing himself above the company.

One scenario earlier this year had Windham winning the NWA world title and becoming a catalyst in an eventual Ric Flair babyface turn. That storyline is reported to have been altered in an unspecified fashion and Windham is said to be angry about it.

No one in the organization would publicly discuss if Windham could make amends enough to return to the NWA. Herd said, "We'd like to continue to talk to try to clear up any misunderstandings Barry has. Barry is a tremendous talent and we really respect his ability. But when you have a change in bookers, it is a major change and that's what has to be kept in perspective here."

One source outside the promotion speculated J.J. Dillon, the former NWA manager now a talent recruiter for Titan Sports, may have been responsible for the attitude of Windham in order to induce a deliberate dismissal, allowing Windham to join the WWF. Dillon is said to have promised Titan he could deliver both Windham and Lex Luger when he jumped to the WWF in February. But another party discounted that, saying Windham "had the same attitude problems" when Dillon was still with the NWA.

(COMMENTARY: It is hard to offer opinion on this issue since we have not been able to directly talk to Barry. So we'll do our best to be fair. If Windham has misunderstandings, they should be cleared up for him. I've been told the booking committee and Jim Herd have tried.

The loss of a Barry Windham would be significant to any promotion---particularly if a Hulk Hogan-Windham series in the WWF could be in the offing. But if our accumulated facts are accurate and we believe them to be, Barry's alleged "me above the company" attitude had to be dealt with firmly.

For too long, the Jim Crockett-era NWA and other promotions have been held hostage by egotistical demands and sensitive talent. Today's wrestler must adapt to the fact that the two big promotions are run by major media conglomerates. They are, first and foremost, businesses run by competent business people---not pampering parlors.

I'd like to see Barry remain with the NWA but if the situation isn't resolved then, perhaps, it sends a message to all talent that the team player is going to succeed far greater in the Turner promotion. That is as it should be. That goes for talent refusing to do jobs, whining about push levels and believing a "they can't do without me" approach will acquire them unlimited power. If the former world champion and perhaps this game's greatest performer can do a submission job to resell concessions in pro wrestling, I don't think anyone has room to complain.

This won't be my most popular commentary with readers. But if Barry Windham---or any other performer---is not a team player, he and they need to go to avoid serious morale declines and allow the NWA to get about the business of rebuilding a promotion showing infant stages of recharging its batteries.

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

WRESTLE WAR '89 PPV CARD
FINALIZED FOR MAY 7

ATLANTA - Final pairings for the WRESTLE WAR '89: MUSIC CITY SHOWDOWN NWA pay-per-view card have been set, headed by the final Ric Flair vs. Ricky Steamboat match for the NWA world title.

Three judges will oversee the clash, in the event of a one-hour draw. Former NWA world champions Lou Thesz, Pat O'Connor and Terry Funk will be on the panel.

Other changes (some as reported here last week): Steve Williams & Mike Rotunda defend the NWA world tag title in a rematch vs. The Road Warriors; Eddie Gilbert & Rick Steiner put up their U.S. belts vs. Kevin Sullivan & Danny Spivey; in a U.S. heavyweight title bout, Lex Luger meets Michael Hayes; Sting will defend the NWA TV title vs. the Iron Sheik.

The Samoan Swat Team faces The New Generation (Shane Douglas & Johnny Ace); The Great Muta takes on Junkyard Dog; Dick Murdoch goes against Bob Orton Jr. in a grudge match.

The card begins live at 4 p.m. EDT from Nashville on May 7.

FNN/SCORE SETS DATE FOR CAULIFLOWER ALLEY SPECIAL

LOS ANGELES - A one-hour special, reliving wrestling's golden years with inductees to the Cauliflower Alley Club, wrestling's and boxing's West Coast hall of fame, is scheduled May 14 on FNN/SCORE.

Host Broadway Danny Wolf will be joined by former great Red Bastien in a look at clips of the inductees, which include former U.S. champion Johnny Valentine.

Wolf will also present highlights from the induction ceremony, taped last month, which will include a special tribute to the late promoter Paul Boesch.

The special is tentatively scheduled for 11 p.m. EDT/8 p.m. PDT.

BACK ISSUES OF MATWATCH: Are available for \$1.00 per issue or \$5.00 for a package of four. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery as special printing runs must be made for back copies.

COMINGS & GOINGS

IS KENDALL NEXT?: As of midweek, Kendall Windham was still with the NWA but speculation is he will leave if the Barry dismissal stands.

CLASH VII AT CENTER: The next CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS special (June 14) is tentatively penciled in to go live from the CENTER STAGE locale in Atlanta, which means tight seating. Expect tons of angles to build the July pay-per-view.

TUESDAY NIGHT: Boni Blackstone, John Michaels and I arrived for last Tuesday's WCW taping 15 minutes prior to tape time and were forced into the Bob Uecker seats but, believe me, there's not a bad seat in the house there.

RHUBARB'S BACK: And Y-106 Zoo Crew chieftain Rhubarb Jones, late of SCW, was ring announcer, pumping up the crowd like Johnny Olsen at a game show. The place was HOT!

NEW SET: No doubt you saw the new WCW set, of marble design, Saturday. It's a vast improvement over the backdrop built for Freddie Miller when the WWF took over the WCW time in 1984.

SCW STATUS: Questions remain over how much longer Southern will survive. Some of Jerry Blackwell's guys, including Ted Allen and Samuel Kent, still want to run a number of North Georgia towns but Blackwell has taken little personal interest in the group since the recent death of his son.

GOSSETT'S GOOSE: Ronald V. Gossett IV getting in the ring after Jerry Lawler on last week's CWA was one of the funniest spots of the year but I don't care if the "Unified" title only changed in Memphis, it waters down the value of a so-called "world" title to have a rookie like Master of Pain (dubbed the Memphis M.O.P. by some wags) win it after such pains were taken to build its unity.

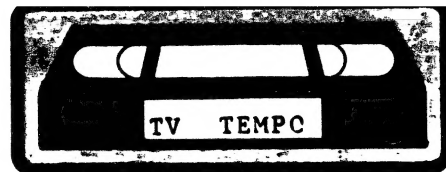
ERIC'S REVENGE: First, Eric Embry lost the loser-leave-WCCW match and returned inside of a month. Next, he beats Gary Young in a loser-leave match (and Young isn't off the Jarrett Promotions payroll). Embry beat the Botswana Beast Friday night (Beast IS leaving). Now, Eric gets a shot at Skandor Akbar in a "loser-leave" match and Akbar is going nowhere. When asked how WCCW would explain away so many of the losers not leaving, one World Classer said, "We'll get out of it some way."

NEW TALENT: Johnny Ace is in the NWA as Shane Douglas' tag partner (they'll be called The New Generation....I'd rather call them The Next Generation to avoid confusion with the old New Breed), Tama (now being called Tonga, the Polynesian Savage) was at the Center Stage tapings and Keiiji Muto was put under firm contract.

FREEBIRDS, FREEBIRDS: Terry Gordy has tentatively come to terms to return to the NWA this summer, so look for a Freebirds-Road Warriors feud. I've also been told Ricky Steamboat is definitely staying after his series with Ric Flair and negotiating continues with Terry Funk to compete after his stint with Lou Thesz and Pat O'Connor as judges for the Steamboat-Flair May 7 match.

MIDWEST TRYOUTS: The NWA is taking a look at and may have test-marketed Larry Cameron (currently of Stampede) during its current Midwest tour and also the Eddie Sharkey-trained Maximum Overdrive tag team, said to be a '90s version of The Road Warriors, only a wee bit smaller. Speaking of The New Breed, as we were a minute ago, has anybody considered trying to find Sean Royal and reuniting him with Chris Champion? I continue to get more "where are they now?" questions about those two guys than any pair in the last three years. I think Royal is selling cars in Florida.

POWER SPLIT: The Powers of Pain are being split after their failure to strike lightning in the WWF. Fuji will still manage. But Barbarian goes into a program with Jim Neidhart and The Warlord, whom we're



(SCW) - Mr. Atlanta d. Steve Reeves; Tommy Rich d. Keith Steinborn; Ga. Power d. Eddie Sweat/Invader I; Steve Prichard wins DQ over Ron Starr when melee erupts; Dino Minelli d. David Sammartino when Samuel Kent uses briefcase on David. BOMB-PLUS.

(CWF) - Rich Cousins d. Alan Martin/Blade Warrior; Tom Prichard d. Bill Holliday; Masa Chono/RPM Davis d. David Eldred/Buddy Gold; Bill Dundee/Hunters draw vs. Wendell Cooley/Todd Morton/Danny Davis in 2-3 fall match as each wins a fall and time runs out in fall 3. DRAW.

(CWA/WMC) - Jerry Lawler d. Keith Eric then gets jumped by Ronald Gossett International but cleans house of all 4; Detroit Demolition d. Jed Grundy; Brian Lee d. Chris Frazier. ARENA: Dutch Mantel DDTs Tracy Smothers to "injure" him; RAGE IN A CAGE: Brian Lee wins but Sylvia offers him \$20,000 to turn on his 4 teammates and he does. Lord Humongous finally frees himself to save his team. FEATURES: R.G. promises Austin Idol shot at Master of Pain's "unified" Memphis world title if Idol beats Lawler, then hints he may not. DRAW.

(CWA/SYND.) - All-squash show with highlight a 2-fall squash as Mason-Dixon Connection/Lee d. Ready/Grappler/Bric in straight falls. Four Stud Stable interviews. BOMB...called worst Memphis show in five years.

(PWFA/FLA.) - Terminator d. Scott Hall; Al Perez/Manny Fernandez d. Mike Awesome/Brett Sawyer; Mike Graham d. Jim Backlund; Steelman d. El Cid; \$1,000 SLAM MATCH: Commandos d. Nasty Boys. Jerry Saggs slams Ray Candy but Oliver Humperdink won't pay up; Steve Keirn/Dick Slater d. Gladiator/Ric Diamond. INTERVIEWS: Terry Funk plugs May 6 Texas Death Bunkhouse Match vs. Dusty Rhodes in Miami; Dusty rips apart the NWA. REPLAY: Steve Keirn DQ over Perez when Fernandez interferes. DRAW-PLUS.

(WCCW) - Iceman Parsons/Botswana Beast d. Kerry Von Erich/Brickhouse Brown; J.J. Funk wins squash; Blackjack Mulligan d. Dwayne Meaders; CHAIN MATCH: Jeff Jarrett d. Buddy Roberts. MARS REPLAY: Embry-Devastation-Percy Pringle bloodbath. DRAW.

(PORTLAND) - Carl Stiles d. Joey Jackson; STRAP MATCH: Brian Adams wins DQ over Word the Barbarian; Top Gun double countout over Buddy Rose; Col. DeBeers wins DQ over Beetlejuice with aid of heel ref Jackson; Scott Peterson no decision vs. Steve Doll; Jonathan Boyd vs. Al Madril still going as show ended. ANGLES: 1) Word tied to ringpost and as he's being whipped by Adams, Grappler sneaks up and powders Adams. Word returns with several boxes of Cheerios & milk jugs and pours them all over Adams. Stiles makes save; 2) Adams/Stiles challenge Grappler/Word to return but Rose/Madril appear and get strapped by Brian & Carl; 3) Jackson lays brass knucks under Doll. When Peterson sees, he tries to attack Steve. Scotty the Body runs in and suplexes Doll and Peterson comes off top rope with knucks; 4) Doll later yanks Scotty's hair backwards and beats the tar out of him in broadcast booth; 5) A local radio station offers a \$500 for a picture of Grappler sans mask. Grappler threatens to

beat up the deejay and Roddy Piper (this was taped after WM 5) runs the Grappler off. PILEDRIVER...trade for it!

(PWTW) - NWA, CLASH VI winners plus Ric Flair d. Bob Leet; CWF, Hunters d. Hall/Blder; WCCW, Beauty & the Beast/Roberts d. Brown/Jarrett/Chris Adams; WWP, WM5 clips; CWA, Frankie Lancaster d. The Shadow but P.Y. Chu Hi runs in; SCW (classic), Abdullah the Butcher double countout vs. Bruiser Brody; MAT CLASSIC, Pat Praley d. Pat McGill. MARS WRESTLER OF WEEK - Ricky Steamboat. POWERSLAM-PLUS.

(NWA/TBS) - {WCW}: Dick Murdoch/Bucky Sieglar win DQ over Bob Orton/Butch Reed when Gary Hart runs in and all 3 throw Tommy Young out; Great Muta d. Greg Evans; Jack Victory d. Randy Rose as ref Teddy Long argues with Rose when he sees Paul B. Dangerously's phone Victory had dropped. Paul B. tosses Victory a second phone, he conks Rose in full view of Teddy and scores pin; Rick Steiner d. The Raider; Ricky Steamboat d. Ron Simmons; Lex Luger d. Tom Branch. ANGLES: Iron Sheik challenges Sting for TV title on May 7 PPV; Kevin Sullivan insults Eddie Gilbert & Missy Hyatt and Missy pops Kevin in the face; Jim Cornette emotionally states that the Midnight Express will leave the NWA if they can't compete up to their own standards; Luger & Michael Hayes argue at set and get into brawl as show ends. POWERSLAM-PLUS...did the final brawl resemble the UWF in any way???

{MAIN EVENT}: Danny Spivey d. Bob Emory; Steiner d. Kendall Windham; Samoan Swat Team d. Midnight Express and Bobby Eaton is injured. POWERSLAM.

(NWA/SYND.) - {WWF}: SST d. Julio Barrerra/Crusher Knob; Butch Reed d. Cliff Sheets; Sheik/Rip Morgan d. Chris Proctor/David Heath; Orton d. Chief Lonewolf; Steamboat d. Victory. REPLAYS: Steamboat-Flair, Road-Warriors-Varsity Club from CLASH VI (also on NWA PRO); PEDICINO'S NOSE: Review of Road Warriors, Teddy Long situation. ANGLE: As Gary Hart & Bob Orton are insulting Dick Murdoch, Dick arrives and beats on both before Hart clubs Murdoch from behind. DRAW-PLUS. {NWA PRO}: Murdoch wins DQ over Butch Reed when Orton, Hart run in; Shane Douglas d. Bob Cook; Steiner d. Ebony Assassin; Sting d. Jim Healey; Muta d. Sheets; Luger d. Mike Thor; Steamboat d. Morgan. ANGLE: As Luger is interviewed, Hayes Pearl Harbors him, tosses him in ring and DDTs. DRAW.

(WWF/USA) - {PRIME TIME}: Primary match...Curt Hennig d. Ronnie Garvin. RESTHOLD.

(WWF/SYND.) - {SUPERSTARS}: Rockers d. Danny Davis/Barry Horowitz; Warlord d. Mark Ming; Red Rooster d. Steve Sharkey; Curt Hennig d. Jim Evans; Jake Roberts d. Dusty Wolfe; Sheepwackers d. Lou Pabiano/Tom Stone. BRO. LOVE w. Randy Savage introducing Sherri Martel as new manager. BOMB-PLUS. {CHALLENGE}: Twin Towers d. DeLeon/Kass; Blue Blazer Hart d. Davis; Bad News Brown d. Neiverma; Hercules d. The Intruder; Rougeaus d. Tim Horner/Evans; Barbarian d. Omar Atlas; Tito Santana d. Stone. FEATURE: Jimmy Snuka. BOMB. {SPOTLIGHT}: Ted DiBiase double countout vs. Bret Hart; Barbarian d. Ricky Ataki; Jim Duggan wins squash; Dino Bravo d. Evans; Brutus Beefcake d. Stone; BRO. LOVE w. Savage/Sherri. RESTHOLD-PLUS...Tony Schiavone fine job for DiBiase/Hart.

LINE OF THE WEEK - 1. Vince McMahon & Jesse Ventura, WEP: JV, "The Bushwackers walk like that because of irritation from their underarm deodorant." VINCE, "That's a total falsehood, Jesse. I have it on good authority they don't use underarm deodorant." 2. Paul B. Dangerously, WWW: "Lance Russell, you've been around 202 years and you don't look a day over 198." 3. Jim Cornette, NME: "You cannot pick a lock with a telephone antenna. It doesn't work." 4. Roddy Piper, Portland: "The Grappler can go home and go to bed now ---maybe this time with a woman." 5. Ronald V. Gossett IV, CWA: "Lord Humongous is on dope...on the steroids! The only reason he spends a lot of time in the gym is he's so dumb he can't find the door out." 6. Terry Funk, PWFA: "I don't want to go to that rathole Miami with all of its pollution & decadence." 7. Gary Hart, WWW: "Murdoch, your mama was no good with her cotton socks and pleat-sack bras." 8. Tom Prichard, CWP: "You've heard about horse thieves. They (Rich Cousins) are hearse thieves." 9. Cornette, WCW: "The last few months, we were three wimps with messed up heads and bad attitudes." 10. Michael Hayes, WCW, to Luger: "You're like 7-UP. You never had it and never will." 11. Kevin Sullivan & Missy Hyatt, WCW: KS, "Eddie Gilbert is a wimp." MH (after slap), "At least he's not a frog like you." 12. Lance Russell, WWW: "He (Paul B.) is trying to conduct a high-tech match vs. a high-voltage opponent." 13. Jerry Lawler, CWA: "Gossett, you've got as many chins as a Chinese telephone book." 14. Jim Ross & Paul B., NME: JR, "Cornette hasn't quit. He's on a sabbatical." PB, "A sabbatical? Where is he...the Betty Ford Clinic?" 15. Vince & Jesse, WEP: VINCE, "Jesse, I'm sure you're familiar with the song BL PASO by the late, great Marty Robbins." JESSE, "No, but I knew his brother, Baskin. Baskin Robbins. I knew him when he only had 2 flavors." 16. Anabolic Warrior, WEP: "Laughter is not the key to the disease you have to contend with, Rick Rude." 17. McMahon, WWF, on Warlord: "There is a certifiable monster!" 18. Manny Fernandez, PWFA: "I want you people to buy some tickets and start spending some money." 19. Grappler, Portland: "Welcome to the Breakfast Club, Adams." 20. Sullivan, NWA PRO, on Murdoch bump: "Last time I saw him do that, he fell off a bar stool in Amarillo and he didn't spill the drink." 21. Sullivan, NWA PRO: "Caudle, sometimes I wonder if you do get up with the chickens." 22. Robert Anderson, WVB SUPER-STARS: "The Armstrongs are all Top Guns. You've got Bullet Bob, Pellet Brad, B.B. Steve & Squirt Pistol Scott." 23. Ross & Paul B., NME: JR, "Can I borrow your phone?" PB, "No, it's my gimmick, not yours!" 24. Blackjack Mulligan, WCCW: "The Open Door policy of World Class has just been busted down." 25. Ross, NME, on Steamboat: "I don't think he's Ozzie Nelson. He has accepted a rematch."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Dusty Rhodes, PWFA: "I left the NWA because I could not be boss!" 2. Lawler, WCCW: "The only group of people dumber than those in Texas are those from Oklahoma." 3. Cornette, WCW: "The last couple of months, we've been going right down the porcelain throne." 4. Hayes, WCW: "I'd like to interview Luger but he can't talk 2 seconds." 5. Cornette, WCW: "If we don't feel we can be the best team in professional wrestling, we're not gonna do it." 6. Paul B., NME: "If I were Ricky Steamboat's wife, I'd file for divorce and take the kid away." 7. McMahon, WEP: "When they (Sheepwackers) come into a

match, they're assaulting every sense you have."

BEST PICTURES - 1. PORTLAND, Nerd-Adams-Grappler brawl. 2. TBS, Missy slapping Sullivan. 3. NWA PRO, Sting leaping over chairs. 4. TBS, Cornette & Dangerously handcuffed to JVD.

WORST INTERVIEW - Robin Smith, WEP. Read the TelePrompter as well as she sings.

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. Marvelous Mouth, given to Paul B. by Russell. 2. "The Fan's Man" and "Guru of Wrestling Knowledge," given to Joe Pedicino by Russell. 3. "The Stupid Package," given to Luger by Hayes. 4. "Bleach-Blonde Bubblehead," given by Sullivan to Missy.

DUM QUESTION OF THE WEEK - CWA color commentator George Klein, who asked Dave Brown, "Are they supposed to go for the mask?"

DUM LINE OF THE WEEK - Randy Savage, WEP: "I have a manager who is more gorgeous than Miss Elizabeth ever, ever, ever could be!"

9 LIVES LINE OF THE WEEK - Lance Russell, WWW: "Little Rock, Arkansas...I was born there one time."

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. McMahon, WEP: "...trouble in River City." 2. Kevin Sullivan, "What do you think I am, Ray Charles?" Enough is enough after four weeks of Ray Charles lines.

BLOOPER AWARD - WWW ring announcer Dana Taylor, for calling jobber Chief Lonewolf, "Chief Lane."

BOO AWARD - CWA, for terrible syndicated outing that featured four Stud Stable interviews and very little wrestling.

The lighting and production values on the NWA syndicated shows were much improved with Craig Leathers directing, except for the choppy editing during JOE PEDICINO KNOWS....Why did they go away from Joe seeing the action in the monitor before each seg?...NWA will tape syndies only 10 days prior to air now....Next week on syndies: 8-man tag with Varsity Club vs. First Family/Road Warriors.

So how did you like the new open, set & graphics on WCW. Kinda sets the tone for a new day, doesn't it?...I can't say, except for a couple of lackluster WEP shows that there was a truly bad wrestling show this past weekend. I still can't get over Portland....Unless my information is bad, Terry Funk will be in the NWA after May 7 as a competitor. Joining him on that Miami HOMECOMING II PWFA (now called PWF of America) card is Larry Zbyszko vs. Mike Graham....The interviews on the Florida show really smacked of desperation in spots. Dusty really ripped into his ex-bosses for the first time....Tony Anthony going to CWA and should be on next week's WNC show.

Frank Dusek apologized for graphic blood on last week's WCCW....Paul B. will continue to make subtle references to Cornette in interviews until the Midnights' expected summer return.

RATINGS RAP: CABLE

(Weekend of April 8-10)	RTG	SHR	HOMES
WWF ALL AMERICAN (USA 4/9)	3.4	9.3	1.51 mil.
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 4/10)	3.4	5.2	1.51 mil.
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 4/9)	2.8	5.4	1.35 mil.
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 4/8)	2.4	4.6	1.16 mil.
NWA MAIN EVENT A.M. (TBS 4/8)	0.7	6.5	338,100

COMINGS & GOINGS

(Continued from P. 2)

told came very close to the recent Titan hit list, now enters a questionable series with Koko B. Ware.

Savage & Savage: I'm told you can eventually expect The Savage Brothers to team in the WWF. Lanny began an early heel build two weeks ago as The Genius, so it'll be interesting if a family connection will finally be disclosed.

Monday Nights: Last week's ELECTRONIC MEDIA told of two Midwestern cable systems which conducted their own telephone surveys and found the WWF PRIME TIME Monday night show to be one of their more popular offerings, drawing a 5.1 rating on one Michigan system.

Motor City: Dan Curtis is planning another Motor City independent show in the Detroit area in May. Keep reading for details. On another indie front, Harvey Cobb is moving his PRO WRESTLING ENQUIRER Fan Club Appreciation card to Virginia Beach, Va., on May 26 at a 1,500 seat arena.

Other Voices: In this month's PRO WRESTLING DIGEST, my friend Dennis Brent writes that Eddie Gilbert and Missy Hyatt took their "adopted" son, Rick Steiner on an Easter Egg hunt. According to Dennis, "Steiner found three eggs."

New Opens: In addition to the new open on WCW, yes, new opens are being produced in L.A. for NWA PRO and WORLD WIDE---in answer to many inquiries. They would have already begun except one of the sequences came back and was only 13 seconds long. The production company misinterpreted TBS' instructions but the piece is being corrected.

Tony's Slot: To be frank, I think talk which continues to surface that Tony Schiavone will replace Vince McMahon on WWF SUPERSTARS is just that. Tony's replacing Vince on SPOTLIGHT will be the extent of it. No way McMahon will give up his flagship show.

All Holds Barred: Vince's Hulk Hogan flick, NO HOLDS BARRED, is still listed for a June 2 open but look at the other new releases in the same time frame: INDIANA JONES & THE LAST CRUSADE (May 24), Clint Eastwood's PINK CADILLAC (May 26), STAR TREK V (June 9), GHOSTBUSTERS II (June 16), KARATE KID III (June 23) and BATMAN (June 23). Plus, a new Robin Williams film will start in the same block. Sorry, Vince, but I think the Hulkster just got legdropped. Plus, an industry source has told us that if Titan received a \$2.5 million home video deal from RCA, that is extremely low for the videocassette market. Expect trade reviews on NHB next month.

Slow Down, Jimbo: Finally, Jim Ross sounded like the little dog that sat on gravel (He said, "Ruff.") after the WCW tapings Tuesday. He's been carrying around a flu bug for a couple of weeks and I don't know how he's been holding onto his voice. But he didn't miss his daughter receiving an academic award from the Kiwanis organization this past week. Congratulations!

RATINGS RAP: SYNDICATION

(For Weekend of March 25-26)

	RATING	SHARE	PCT/U.S.
WWF	9.2	232	96%
NWA	5.9	143	90%

(ANALYSIS: ALL-PRO Network figures were not available. In part, the drop from a 10.0 represents heavier competition from the NCAA regional basketball finals as several markets pre-empted. The NWA stayed relatively firm. What will be interesting is how viewers will react to the livelier syndicated shows, once we get ratings from those shows during April and May).

YOU SAID IT!

Enjoyed your comments on MARIO GALENTO. One of the hottest matches in Tampa was with him and J.C. Dykes (manager of The Infernos), two "old" men. They met 3 times. First meeting, J.C. won with heavy juice. Second meeting was in cage, won by J.C. when he threw a fireball. Police opened the cage, grabbed J.C. and they all ran back to dressing rooms. Third meeting, Texas Death Match with Haystacks Calhoun as ref, was anticlimactic dud won by Mario.

DALE EDWARDS
JAMESTOWN KY

You've really been on top of this NWA/Cornette situation. If they don't reconsider, they're going to pay for this decision...with empty seats.

MIKE ROGERS
VALDOSTA GA

The NWA is the far better setting for Cornette. Correct me if I'm wrong, but it seems the NWA head honchos seem to favor (Paul E.) Dangerously over Cornette (basically Dangerously does imitate Piper a great deal, although with none of the "charm.") as Paul seems to be less played out and I do think he's better as a co-host on the show than Cornette, although Cornette is far superior on the spot so to speak. I'm not sure if the new people in power really have any understanding (not that I do, either, I'm hardly experienced) of how to go about bringing the NWA back. I don't know about ol' Ted but I'd have done anything to get Piper back as he knows how to work the TV better than anyone in wrestling.

TERESA DEMARIE
TUCKAHOE NY

(FSB: Teresa, as we mentioned in TUBE TALK, I think much more rational heads are now prevailing in the NWA, even though it's going to take weeks and maybe even months for TBS to win back people's trust. As for Piper, I think his Portland stuff of late has been superior to the WM5 skit and I don't know why that happened. Finally, I certainly enjoy your views and analysis on the sport.)

An NWA without Jim Cornette and the Midnight Express? With the way things are going, I think I'll find another channel on Saturday nights.

RICHARD CLARKE
EASTON PA

(FSB: This letter came in prior to George Scott's dismissal but reflects strong sentiment over the Cornette/Midnights situation. But they should be back this summer, recharged to boot.

Has Paul Jones been pinkslipped by Turner's NWA? Secondly, has the Western States title been mothballed? I've heard nothing of it since (Larry) Zbyszko left.

JEFF FISHER
LAKE TOXAWAY NC

(FSB: 1. Yes...the day George Scott was fired. 2. Yes. That title was really created for Barry Windham in 1987 to defend in both UWF and NWA areas and has been retired, along with the NWA Fla. belt.)

Well, Channel 12 in Chattanooga screwed up the CWF show AGAIN. Last Saturday, it was supposed to be on from 1 to 2 and that's what I set my VCR for. When I played it back, I had only the LAST 30 minutes of the show. I wasn't too happy about it.

DAVID WILLIAMSON
CLEVELAND TN

I'd sure hate to see Cornette go to the WWF. He would probably be buried a la Jimmy Hart in Heenan regime of dominance. They should work Japan until someone in TBS realizes the mistake in the loss of Cornette (note I said Cornette---team has seen their best days). I'm excited about the mat scene right now: Dundee (CWF), the continuing evolution of the NWA and the genius of Connecticut and his role of chessmaster.

KLON (K.B. HERRON)
MELBOURNE FL

Were you on drugs when you rated the CLASH and WRESTLEMANIA 5? Sure, CLASH had its weak points (Junkyard Dog, Butch Reed, Iron Sheik, etc.) but no way WM5 got a "slight edge." Maybe you just o.d.'d on wrestling. We'll forgive you this time.

BUDDY FREEMAN
PERRY FL

Thanks for your excellent coverage, not only of the WM5 and CLASH events, but for the thorough coverage of the George Scott situation. You, indeed, were more patient than most, but all anyone had to do was see the numbers of BOMBS and BOMB-PLUS ratings the NWA shows received with George at the helm and know your feelings.
ELLEN DESARIO
CLEVELAND OH

Something has been bothering me. It's called WRESTLING RADIO (on WIP-AM in Philadelphia), hosted by Joel Goodheart. What bothers me is he is so bias(ed) that he gets on my nerves so much, I would like to beat the crap out of him. See, what he does is criticizes the WWF (I'm a hardcore WWF fan because I grew up with it and am loyal to it)..... He will say (to a caller), "They (WWF) are fake and all the other wrestling areas are real and don't watch the WWF." The same caller was throwing in all the good stuff McMahon has done for wrestling and Joel didn't really want to listen to it and kept on cutting the guy off. I'm so angry about this that I don't really know what to write. So I guess I will tell you what I thought of WM5...it was an excellent show. I didn't get to watch CLASH 6 because my VCR screwed up but I did watch their special on Friday and it was a joke.

WALT MARSHALL
MORRISVILLE PA

From the well-produced COUNTDOWN special to a tremendous Sunday afternoon, the NWA appears to be waking up from the cemetery. Too bad George Scott didn't want anybody to know about either.

BILL CARLISLE
JACKSONVILLE TX

MATWATCH
213 PINE HILLS AVE.
AUBURN AL 36830

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____ 1 ISSUE LEFT
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____ FINAL REMINDER
____ TO RENEW

Michael Gendelman
49 Admiral Lane
Hicksville, NY 11801

MATWATCH SHOPPERS

NETWORK

(Tape Traders)

SEAN RYAN, P.O. Box 902147, Fairbanks AK 99775-1040, has a number of tapes and other wrestling items for sale.

CHRIS SIGGIA, 1638 W. 32nd St., Erie PA 16508, is trying to find Mid-Atlantic show tapes from May 1983-April 1985.

RICKY SHORT, Rt. 2, Box 297, Gretna VA, is trying to locate a recent tape trader, Eric Cholminski, last listed at a Philadelphia address, and also is after ATLANTIC COAST tapes.

STEVE FRIEDLANDER, 1150 Pelham Parkway South, Bronx NY 10461, has hundreds of hours of sale/trade tapes, including U.S., Japan, men, women, recent and older.

DAN FARREN, 7324 Reseda Blvd. #179, Reseda CA, has some Japan tapes available.

J.D. MCKAY JR., Rt. 2, Box 291, Louisville MS 39339, is seeking recent Portland tapes.

(Publications)

SUPER SUNDAY SPECIAL EDITION/MATWATCH: I have about 45 additional copies of the Super Sunday issue. If you'd like to give the 12-page issue as a gift, the cost is \$1.50 and you will receive one bonus issue of MATWATCH on your current order. Send check, cash, or money order and "giftee's" name & address to: STEVE BEVERLY, 213 PINE HILLS AVE., AUBURN AL 36830.

Whoever wrote WRESTLING TV LOG ought to be a regular contributor. That was some of the funniest stuff I've ever read. Who did write it?

JEFF PATTERSON
HENDERSONVILLE NC

(FSB: The Lone Ranger.)



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